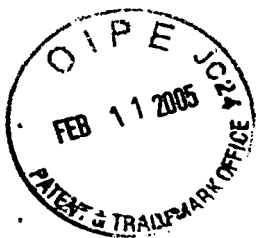


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Date of signature

Albert J. Blum

2/7/2005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARKS OFFICE

APPLICANT: THOMAS A. THOMAS

SERIAL NUMBER : 10/787273

FILED: 2/27/04

GROUP ART UNIT: 1761

DOCKET NUMBER: T2043

EXAMINER: SIMONE, T. F.

FOR: SMOKE GENERATOR CARTRIDGE FOR FOOD PROCESSING

AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

SIR,

In response to the office action of 1/21/05, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION: (first paragraph of page 3)

When the cartridge 2 is inserted into the cartridge holder 12 through its open top 13 as shown, the rim 14 of the cartridge is too large to pass through the open top, so that it engages the top 13 of the holder. This cartridge is thereby held in position with the central axis of the chamber vertical. An imperforate upper section 15 of the holder closely encloses the upper portion 7 of the cartridge to shield it from combustion. The lower section 16 of the holder is provided with large openings 17 to freely admit oxygen and a lighted match, or the like. When a fire is applied to the bottom portion ~~8~~ 8, it readily burns. It in turn sets the tinder afire. This in turn ignites the pellets. The pellets smolder and emit smoke. The hot smoke rises vertically, passing through perforation 6 and to the food. The convection currents bring oxygen through openings 17. A smoke current is provided without the need for a forced air apparatus. The pellets smolder and produce a continuous stream of smoke for a prolonged period.